

## INTRODUCTION

While the end products of the efforts of those engaged in community planning are generally expressed in the form of physical documents- maps, reports, and the like, the object is to produce meaningful plans for the people involved. The degree of success of a planning program can be measured by the extent to which the physical environment can be shaped or improved. The plans, therefore, must be based on a knowledge of the wants and capabilities of the population served, the number, age, groups, and characteristics of the present and future inhabitants.

This report attempts to provide a framework to assist the Hot Springs Planning Board in developing comprehensive plans for the future development of Hot Springs. The report necessarily includes information on the township, the county, and the State of North Carolina since the course of development of the Town of Hot Springs is affected by developments in the larger regions of which it is a part. With an understanding of the changing economy in other areas and its effect on local patterns of development, realistic guide-lines for the future of Hot Springs can be developed. Sound planning, conducted by local dedicated leaders, can go far toward influencing favorable development.